

Miscellaneous.

INSTITUTION OF CIVIL ENGINEERS.—On the 27th, the paper read was a "Description of the Old Southend Pier-head, and the extension of the pier; with an inquiry into the nature and ravages of the *Teredo Navalis*, and the means hitherto adopted for preventing its attacks," by Mr. John Paton. A general outline of the extension of the pier, and a minute description of the pier-head, were given, showing the means adopted by the use of iron piles, and by scupper-nailing the inner piles, to preserve the structure from decay. As to the *Teredo*, the conclusions arrived at were, that the ravages of the marine worm were not prevented by any chemical application, and that nothing but mechanical means could ever prove completely successful: studding with broad-headed nails was considered to be the most effectual remedy.—On the 4th inst. the discussion was continued on Mr. Paton's paper. The "Tholas" was shown to have been in active operation upon certain rocks from the earliest periods, but never upon Portland stone. Hence it was argued, that kind of stone should be used for breakwaters and other works exposed to the action of the sea. This bearing of the discussion induced remarks upon the ravages of the white ant of India; which, however, appeared to have been little studied, and less understood, as far as attempting to arrest, or to prevent its inroads. Specimens of piles from Lowestoft harbour, whose waters were notoriously full of worms, showed that timber in a natural state was in a few months thoroughly perforated by "*Teredo*" in the centre, and "*Limnoria*" on the surface; but that piles, which had been properly saturated according to Bethell's system, in exhausted receivers, and subjected to such pressure as insured the absorption of about ten pounds' weight of the creosote, or oil of coal tar, by each cubic foot of the timber, were perfectly preserved from attacks of marine animals of any kind.

RAILWAY JOTTINGS.—A pontoon, or floating landing-stage, 400 feet long by 50 wide, and weighing 600 tons, has been constructed by Messrs. E. B. Wilson and Co., locomotive engine manufacturers, of Leeds, and is shortly to be launched at Goole. This platform is twice the length of a ship of the line, and will be launched broadside. It is made of plate-iron, except the deck, which is of wood. It is intended for a pier at New Holland, on the Humber, opposite Hull, for landing passengers from steamers, communicating with one of the Lincolnshire railways. Two covered ways, called girders, made at same works, of plate-iron, on the principle of the tubular bridges, and 142 feet in length, will extend from the pontoon to the station on the pier.—In an arbitration case respecting the fall of a viaduct at Knaresborough, the arbitrator had found that the loss amounted to 8,450*l.* 4*s.*, the amount to be made up in this way—3,291*l.* 7*s.* 10*d.* to be paid by the Leeds and Thirsk Railway Company, 2,319*l.* 12*s.* by the East and West Yorkshire Junction Company, and 2,319*l.* 4*s.* by the contractors, but the contractors only to pay 1,834*l.* in money, giving up all claim to the ruins and plant of the viaduct. A rule nisi to set aside this award was lately brought before Mr. Justice Erie, in which it was contended that the arbitrator had no power to make such award,—that the arbitrator, who was the engineer to the Company, and to the vice of whose plan the accident in the viaduct was attributed, had directed that the viaduct should be rebuilt by independent parties on a new plan, which he clearly had no power to do, inasmuch as the contractors were under agreement to complete the viaduct and maintain it for a given space of time,—but supposing the arbitrator had such power, that his award was bad for not being final. It did not dispose of the covenant and responsibilities the contractors had rendered themselves liable to by signing the deed. On these grounds it was insisted that the award was invalid and ought to be set aside.—Mr. Justice Erie granted the rule upon all points.

PROVIDENT INSTITUTION FOR ARTISANS.—A meeting of gentlemen interested in the success of Mr. Cockerell's proposal will be held at the Guildhall, London, on Tuesday next.

PROJECTED WORKS.—Advertisements have been issued for tenders by 8th January, 1850, for the erection of the subscription baths and other works at Wolverhampton; by 10th December current, for various works at Rock Leaze Estate, near Bristol; by 13th, for the erection of coke ovens, coal stores, and other works, at the Stood terminus of the North Kent Railway; by 19th, for putting in new windows in aisles of Isleworth Church; by 15th, for the erection of the Northampton Corn Exchange; by 12th, for the construction of a fence wall at the new goods warehouses of the York, Newcastle, and Berwick Railway, at Newcastle, and a retaining and fence wall along Forth-street; by 22nd January, 1850, for files and steel for the navy; and by 11th inst., for twenty tons of lignum vitae for the navy.

THE ARCHITECT-MAYOR OF LANCASTER.—We mentioned that Mr. Edmund Sharpe, the author of "Architectural Parallels, or the Progress of Ecclesiastical Architecture in England," had been elected Mayor of Lancaster. His year of office has now expired; and we are glad to find the local *Gazette*, in a leading article, bearing witness to the value of his efforts in that position, especially with regard to the sanitary improvement of the town.

LIVERPOOL ARCHITECTURAL SOCIETY.—A meeting of this society was held on Wednesday evening last week. On the suggestion of Mr. Reid, the secretary, it was agreed that a prize should be given to the student member of the association, at the end of the session, who made the greatest number, and the best, sketches on subjects to be given out by the council at each fortnightly meeting. The subject for that evening would be a lodge, the size, style, and design being left entirely to the students. A conversation took place upon the best method of "plugging" floors, by which sound was prevented from communicating to the lower apartments. One said the best way of destroying sound in floors was by flays above the joists, boarded over, the boards being fastened to battens. Another method of destroying sound was with battens and laths, a coat of plaster, and the space well filled up with engine-ashes, lime, and sand, compounded together, to the thickness of about three inches, within an inch and a half of the top of the joists, and, when that had dried, all the crevices to be filled up with a thin coat of mortar. The way in which the floors of St. George's-hall are plugged is this. There are felts on each side the joists, and three-quarter boards over the felts, the remaining space being filled up with a composition, principally consisting of plaster, to within about an eighth of an inch of the surface of the joists. A paper was read by Mr. Barry on "Monumental Brasses."

THE FALLEN ARCHES AT KENTISH-TOWN.—Your observations on this mishap appear to be well founded and important: all who are acquainted with the site traversed by that viaduct,—the course of the old Fleet Ditch, and the ill-drained flat that still engenders typhus and influenza,—must be astonished at the small depth and substance of the foundations of the piers, as given in *THE BUILDER* of last Saturday; and they must agree with you, that in such cases an inquest ought to be held, even when no life is lost on the occasion. In cases of fire, such inquiry is sometimes made; and surely, where an awful risk of human life is incurred, and the interests of science and of the public are at stake, as in this event, the expense and inconvenience would be nothing in comparison with the advantages to be derived from a fair, judicious, and strict inquiry. By way of suggestion as to additional or incidental causes of accident in bridges recently constructed and imperfectly set, I submit the following occurrence. On the 5th of November last, passing under this very bridge, I observed to a friend that I never felt satisfied with a bridge or arch made of several rims of bricks of the same size and not bonded, and I pointed to several instances of the lines all running into each other, instead of overlaying each other's joints, and reminded him of various examples on the Richmond and South-Western lines, where the filtration of water is consequently increasing to an alarming degree. Before a coroner's jury such hints might lead to improvements: without inquiry we need not expect any unless through your excellent journal.

AN OBSERVER.

PICTORIAL MAPS.—Acting on a hint honourably quoted from *THE BUILDER*, on a proposal made at the Geographical Society, for constructing large and uniform maps in the new Houses of Parliament, to be traced and depicted on the walls, Mr. S. Bannister has published a letter addressed to Mr. Eastlake, R.A., on the possibility of greatly amplifying this idea in the establishment of "Pictorial maps of the land, the sea, and the heavens, georamas, and lectures on geography," for behoof of the people at large, in London and the chief cities and towns throughout the country. Mr. Bannister has here accumulated a great deal of interesting learning on kindred topics, both ancient and modern; and suggests the possibility of forming a new society for carrying out the objects set forth in the proposal. He draws attention to the peculiar adaptability of the domes and walls of the Brighton Pavilion (lately sold to the town of Brighton) to begin with; and notices the fact that it is proposed to place a georama, or large concave globe or map of the earth, of 40 feet diameter, in the City Hall of Commerce, also lately sold,—the funds to be raised by subscription. Various other feasible proposals and suggestions are contained in this little pamphlet which we hope will prove to be the fruit-fying germ of many more goodly leaves and branches.

PROVINCIAL.—A monument to Nelson is to be erected at Norwich, the capital of his native county. It is proposed to be in the form of a statue, on a pedestal in the centre of the market-place, with four gas lamps at the corners of a palisade surrounding it.—Plans of a town-hall for Knighton, says the *Hereford Times*, have been prepared. They specify a hall on our part, and on the other a hotel. There will also be shops and an iron gate opening on the market-place.—The Duke of Cleveland has offered to subscribe 50*l.* towards the erection of a central ragged school-house in Wolverhampton.—The great wooden building at Birmingham for the exhibition of cattle, &c., has been completed. The full dimensions are 330 feet in length by 100 feet, increased at one end to 150 feet. The cattle-stalls are all separated by hurdles, and provided with feeding-troughs. The whole is fitted up with gas.

IMPORTANT TO GLAZIERS AND OTHERS.—In a case, "*Hodgton against Mallech's executors*," the question was—When work is sent to a glazier, without any specific price or time being stipulated, and the glazier delays in order to take advantage of a subsequent reduction in the duty on glass, is he entitled to charge the price current at the date of the order, or merely the reduced price at the date of delivery? The second division of the Court of Session have decided that he can charge the former price, the majority of them apparently on the specialty that no time for finishing the glass was stipulated, and no complaint ever made of the delay. The decision is of course applicable to other trades.—*Edinburgh Register.*

LANDLORD AND TENANT.—With reference to your article, "*Landlord and Tenant*," in *THE BUILDER* of the 24th ult., J., who was the defendant in the case, would mention that in the ninth line from the top, "*plaintiff paid his rent*," &c., should have been, "*defendant paid his rent*," &c. The abstract of the Landlords and Tenants Act alluded to, is published by Walwyn, Hatton Garden; and in reference to "*notice to quit premises*," at page 7, it reads thus:—"If notice be given up to a wrong time, or a quarter instead of half-a-year, such warning should be objected to as soon as possible. Where three months' notice to quit has been given where six was in strictness necessary, and no objection made to it at the time, the notice was deemed good and binding on the party accepting it."—*1 Esp. Ch. 266.* This information, coupled with the recommendation of the solicitor employed to defend the case, assuring me that the plaintiff could not claim a farthing, induced me to place myself in that position, and thereby incur the costs. His honour would have had greater reason to call it a "*case of great hardship*" to me, if I had told him how I had been treated by one who was paid to defend the case. So much for law books and solicitors: for the future, I throw them to the winds and bats.

GEO. NICHOL.